

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 1, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- The function of the foam 14 is threefold. Primarily, the foam 14 adheres to the porous interior surface of the shell 12 so that if the tap handle 10 is impacted heavily and breaks, the foam 14 binds the pieces of the shattered shell 12 together, ~~suck~~ such that the sharp edges of the ceramic are not exposed. Injuries are, thereby, avoided. Secondly, the lightweight foam 14 substantially increases the resilience and strength of the tap handle 10 such that it can withstand substantially greater impacts than prior art handles without breaking. The foam 14 is superior to other materials as it is solid, but compacts under impact, thereby, reducing the chance of fracture of the shell 12 as the foam 14 decelerates impacting forces over a greater period of time than a more brittle material. This increases the durability of tap handles 10 and is more cost effective. Finally, the inherent adhesive qualities of the foam 14 act to cement the tap handle 10 into a single unit, including the shell 12, glue plug 16, ferrule 18 and cap 20. The present invention, thereby, renders high quality ceramic tap handles 10 as or more durable and safe than alternative, less aesthetically pleasing handles made from wood, plastic or resin. --